



I'll take angry and helpless for a thousand, Alex.



Chaz

 [cvillette](https://cvillette.livejournal.com/)

<https://cvillette.livejournal.com/>
2008-09-30 10:19:00

MOOD: 😞 exhausted

MUSIC: you've never seen everything

Didn't sleep last night, because I stayed up to midnight so I could be Wabbit's first birthday-wisher. And right as I was going to shut down my laptop and go to sleep, I found out about this.

Md. Mother Jailed After Bodies Of 2 Children Found in Freezer

...The girl said her mother had locked her out of their home, Garrett said yesterday, recalling Friday afternoon's encounter. She said she hadn't eaten in three days. And there was more: "She let us know that she had two sisters and that 'my mother beat them to death.' "

Early Saturday, Calvert authorities made a gruesome discovery: the bodies of two children encased in ice in a freezer in the home of Renee D. Bowman, 43. Bowman has been receiving a monthly government subsidy of \$2,400 to care for her three adopted children: the 7-year-old girl on the street and two others who are now officially missing....

(https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/29/AR2008092900796.html%3Fnav%3Drss_email/components)

And after I read it, I had to get out of the apartment for a while. Which turned into a nice long skate around the state of Virginia. Okay, it only felt that like. If you saw a spotted blur around Arlington last night, that was me. And there wasn't any sleep, and today of course I'm at work. Came in early, in fact.

The story's been substantially rewritten since last night, when they had obviously just slapped together something hasty. But last night's version included some little facts and details that have

been cut, probably in the interests of good taste. Like the fact that the little girl who survived survived because she climbed out of her bedroom window in her night gown and jumped for it. Like the fact that the freezer in question is a "drop-in" style, and that when investigators opened it, they found a cloudy block of ice with the bodies of two children frozen inside. And the fact that the medical examiner's office was waiting for the ice to thaw before they made any further identification or comment... and it was expected to take a couple of days.

Good. Fucking. God.

They were people. Tiny little people with hardly any recourse, but *people*. They were helpless. They'd been officially given into the possession of a crazy woman by the people who were supposed to look out for them. And everybody stopped looking out for them even a little.

Nobody even noticed they weren't enrolled in school.

And now there's two little girls who are dead, and who died of *torture* (let's call it what it is, people), and a seven-year-old girl who knew her sisters were in the freezer and nobody was ever coming to help her.

This is why I got into this business. Stuff like this. Because no matter how long and hard you skate, you can't skate away from a world in which this kind of thing happens. And it doesn't matter how fast you shovel; there's always more. But that doesn't excuse you from shoveling.

This was one state over. Right next door. It's not the only case like this happening *right next door*. To me, to you.

Just keep an eye out, okay? Because I asked. For me.



[locked] Dream Journal

All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

Elvis doesn't live here anymore.

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

Poppets. Puppets. Poppet puppets. Scary.

26 comments

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 cvillette

September 30 2008, 14:39:30 UTC COLLAPSE

Law enforcement officer. And I'm really feeling for Sheriff Evans this morning. *Gah.*

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 jimsmyth

September 30 2008, 23:03:15 UTC COLLAPSE

What the other smith said.

Thanks.

Thanks for doing what you're doing. Thanks for doing it despite being creeped out by guns and by situations like this, even though you have to deal with both of them much more often this way.

And thanks for putting up with all these thanks, which (if you're human) probably annoy you. It makes us feel better.

And I'll stop now.

 adarad

September 30 2008, 14:43:41 UTC COLLAPSE

I don't know how you do what you do (or, really even *what* exactly you do), but I do know that I couldn't do it.

You're a stronger person than I'll ever be, and I admire you for it.



 cvillette

September 30 2008, 15:06:11 UTC COLLAPSE

I'm just a cop. The sort who mostly pushes paper. (But it's useful paper.)

If you had to do it, you would. People are tougher than they think.

 [adarad](#)

[September 30 2008, 15:26:39 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Still, even a cop who mostly pushes paper sees and does more wacky stuff than your regular, run of the mill nerd like myself.

My little brother did two tours in Afghanistan with the Canadian Armed Forces and it's weird to see how much he's changed. He's seen so much that I'll never see or know.

... Guns creep me the hell out.



 [cvillette](#)

[September 30 2008, 15:33:11 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Guns creep me out too. >8=>

 [adarad](#)

[September 30 2008, 15:37:04 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Really? Okay, well I'm glad I'm not the only one.

Truthfully, I have thought about joining the RCMP, but I haven't given it that much thought.

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 [cvillette](#)

[September 30 2008, 14:52:07 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Scary because they are largely true. Thank *you.*



 [twistedchick](#)

[September 30 2008, 14:45:56 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I saw it on the late news -- local news, it's the county where I live -- and it made me ill. And terrified, even though I'm not a child. I hope that child who had the courage to jump will find people to care about her.



 [cvillette](#)

[September 30 2008, 15:07:46 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I hope so too.

 [pnkrokhockeymom](#)

[September 30 2008, 14:52:49 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Good god.



[saltypepper](#)

[September 30 2008, 14:54:21 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

God bless the child who's brave enough to jump out of a damn window to save her own life.



[phiremangston](#)

[September 30 2008, 15:02:58 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

There need to be more people like you in the world. More people who care as much and as passionately as you do.



[tamnonlinear](#)

[September 30 2008, 15:13:53 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Those poor children.

I wish they had known love and security when they were here. I'm glad people are at least angry for them now, though it's no use to them. I hope the surviving child finds what she needs. I hope people help her. I hope she gets to learn that there is goodness and light and wonder in the world, even after this.

We are at our best when we look after each other.



[nebula99](#)

[September 30 2008, 15:51:34 UTC](#)

Edited: September 30 2008, 17:00:18 UTC

[COLLAPSE](#)

I read the article with a mix of shock and horror and despair at a welfare system that can't make sure that little kids are okay.

It shouldn't be that hard to make sure that the people who have the responsibility of caring for children are doing it with love. Children deserve that much.



[cjtremlett](#)

[September 30 2008, 16:00:16 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I sincerely hope we as a society never get to a place where a story like that doesn't shock and horrify.

Thank you for doing what you do. Thank you to anyone who does something to prevent things like this or to stop them before they get worse.



[anderyn](#)

[September 30 2008, 16:38:40 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I have five grandchildren (two of whom live with me) younger than that little girl, and I boggle at the thought of anyone actually causing so much damage to such a little defenseless person. (Well, actually, I have experience with people who would do that, when I was a little person myself, but speaking as an adult, that mindset is totally alien. It's like ... unthinkable ...)

So, yes, you continue to fight the good fight and I'll keep my eyes open...just in case.



[radiotelescope](#)

[September 30 2008, 16:59:34 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Article says the woman (nearly typed "family") had moved there from Rockville, at an address... google... okay, a mile from where I grew up. Mile and a half.

Great.



[saoba](#)

[September 30 2008, 18:55:38 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Thank you for shoveling.

I recently had a couple of contacts with a LEO and expressed my willingness to help find a person and their minor child who were tangentially involved in a Bad Case. The LEO was kind enough to call me when the case was resolved and let me know parent and child were okay.

I doubt my mites of information had much to do with that. But I gave them freely.

He said too many people seem to think 'it's not my problem if it's not my child' and don't want to get involved.

I'll keep an eye out, yes.



[glinda_w](#)

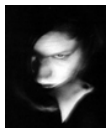
[September 30 2008, 19:14:47 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I really haven't words.

Thank you, for continuing to shovel.

Eyes open, here, as much as I can.




[kayjayoh](#)

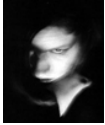
[September 30 2008, 19:50:48 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

It never ceases to fill me with rage that a...a wretch like that woman can be entrusted with children, while many qualified and caring folks are turned away because they aren't "traditional enough", for whatever version of traditional. If only my rage could scour away the ugly and make sure that everyone was safe and loved.

But it can't, so I will join in the chorus of thank-yous to you and all your worthy cohorts in law enforcement, as well as to the other out there in the trenches everyday, trying to make a difference. To the really good social workers who are fighting low funding and burnout. To the doctors, nurses, teachers, and others who take their role of "mandated reporter" seriously and refuse to overlook even faint concerns. To all of you. Thank you.

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 [kayjayoh](#)

[September 30 2008, 22:27:20 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Will, I respect your compassion, but you're right—it is impossible.

I'd say more, but I think the rest of my reply was too long-winded and angry (not at you, mind you) and it's best left deleted.

[locked] [Dream Journal](#)

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